

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
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INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 4894

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINR, CU, AO, CG, BE
SUBJECT: CUBA: VISIT OF FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL TO BRUSSELS

REF: (A) BRUSSELS 4438 (B) STATE 102130

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR FOR LATIN AMERICAN AFFAIRS
(AMBASSADOR WATTEEUW) FILLED US IN ON MAY 6-9 VISIT TO
BELGIUM OF CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTRY'S DIRECTOR OF WESTERN
EUROPEAN AFFAIRS (NOT DIRGEN), MULET DE VALLE, WHO WAS
ON TOUR OF VARIOUS WE CAPITALS. MULET DE VALLE MET WITH
MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS (BILATERAL)
DE BASSOMPIERRE AND OTHERS MAY 6 AND GAVE LUNCHEON AT
CUBAN EMBASSY MAY 9.

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2. ON ANGOLA AND SHABA, WATTEEUW SAID MULET DE VALLE TOLD
BELGIANS THAT THERE WERE NO CUBANS IN SHABA AND THAT CUBAN
GOVERNMENT WAS IN THE PROCESS OF PULLING OUT TROOPS FROM ANGOLA
AND REPLACING THEM WITH TECHNICIANS. MULET DE VALLE DEFENDED
CUBAN ROLE IN ANGOLA, CITING INVITATION FROM ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT
TO FILL VACUUM LEFT BY DEPARTING PORTUGUESE AND ALSO EMPATHY

OF CUBAN BLACKS FOR FREEDOM STRUGGLES OF AFRICAN BLACKS.

3. WATTEEUW SAID CUBAN MADE EXPOSITION OF CURRENT CUBAN ECONOMIC PROBLEMS CAUSED BY LOW WORLD SUGAR PRICES, ENDING WITH PITCH THAT EUROPEAN TRADING PARTNERS CONTINUE TO EXTEND CREDITS TO SEE CUBA THROUGH CURRENT DIFFICULTIES.

4. WATTEEUW SAID MULET DE VALLE DUCKED QUESTION OF CONTINUED INCARCERATION OF U.S. CITIZEN LAWRENCE LUNT, HUSBAND OF BELGIAN CITIZEN. WATTEEUW, DUBBING CUBAN'S RESPONSE AS "CAUTIOUS BUT POSITIVE," SAID MULET DE VALLE RESPONDED THAT HE WAS FAMILIAR WITH THE CASE AND PROMISED HE WOULD RAISE IT "AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL" AND SEE "WHAT COULD BE DONE." DE BASSOMPIERRE ALSO RAISED CASE OF HONORARY BELGIAN CONSUL IN CIENFUEGOS, PUIG TAVARES, A CUBAN CITIZEN WITH WIFE AND CHILDREN IN THE U.S., WHO HAS BEEN IN PRISON 13 YEARS ON CHARGES OF ESPIONAGE. MULET DE VALLE WAS UNFAMILIAR WITH CASE BUT PROMISED TO LOOK INTO MATTER AND REPLY. RENNER

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